

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 3, 4 and 5

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 8-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 8, 10, 12 and 15-18 are amended in order to clarify the subject matter of the invention. Claims 13 and 14 are withdrawn from consideration. No new matter is added and the new claims are directed to the same invention as originally disclosed and claimed.

This is supplemental to the Amendment filed on November 26, 2006 and is based upon the comments made by the Examiner during an interview with the Applicants' representative on December 6, 2007. Applicants are extremely grateful to the Examiner for the courtesy extended to the Applicants' representative and the time and effort put into the interview, as well as the helpful suggestions made.

Drawings

During the interview, the Examiner noted that (1) the replacement drawings submitted in the previous amendment did not include a proper legend and (2) that the drawings were not accompanied by a marked up copy of the original drawings.

Applicants are herewith submitting a revised copy of the drawings with the proper legend and a copy of the original drawings marked to show the changes. Applicants' explanation of the changes in the previous Amendment are incorporated by reference.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 8-12 are rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the German utility model DE 8,004,343 U1 (DSI-Sportartikel or “DSI”). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the detailed comments in the previous Amendment, and simply summarize that the DSI reference does not meet the following limitations:

“Non-Threaded Bore”

This limitation on the claimed “spreading element” expressly appears in each of independent claims 8, 10, 12 and 15-18. DSI has a threaded bore in its spreading element.

“Move Axially Within Narrow Limits Without Rotation Thereof”

This limitation on the claimed “spreading element” expressly appears in each of independent claims 8, and 15-18. DSI has a spreading element but it cannot move without rotation since it is threadedly secured to the screw.

Pot Facing Away From Said Inner Tube

This limitation on the claimed “spreading element” expressly appears in each of independent claims 10 and 16. DSI has a pot facing toward the inner tube.

For all of the foregoing reasons, independent claim 8 and dependent claims 9-12, as well as independent claims 15-18 are not anticipated by the prior art DSI Sportartikel reference.

Claims 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kupski (3,145,669). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the detailed comments in the previous Amendment, and simply summarize that the Kupski reference does not meet the following limitations:

“Only a Single Inner Cone”

This limitation on the claimed “spreading element” expressly appears in each of independent claims 8 and 15-17. Kupski requires use of two inner cones in its spreading element.

“Move Axially Within Narrow Limits Without Rotation Thereof”

This limitation on the claimed “spreading element” expressly appears in each of independent claims 8, and 15-18. Kupski has a spreading element but it cannot move axially within narrow limits since it is sandwiched between two cone structures without any gap. Notably, claim 18 defines the space between the spreading element and the stop as a “gap.”

For all of the foregoing reasons, independent claims 8 and 15-18 are not anticipated by the prior art Kupski reference.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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